



Sustainable Monocacy Commission meeting
Thursday, June 23, 2022

Members present: Chuck Eirkson, Gary Magnuson, Kim Stewart, Andy Celmer, Matt Moran, Bill Allen (Chair), Lonnie Ropp, Peter Sicilia

Due to previously-scheduled commitments, Councilmember Jerry Donald and City Alderwoman Katie Nash could not attend.

Guest speakers: Becky Monahan and Jonathan Leiman from the Maryland Department of the Environment

County Staff: Tim Goodfellow

The Commission met virtually at 7:00pm.

Chair Bill Allen opened the meeting with a review of the May 2022 meeting minutes. Chuck mentioned that his statements about air deposition of nitrogen into waterways was missing from the May 2022 minutes. Tim stated that they would be added. Gary motioned to approve the May 2022 meeting minutes; Andy seconded motion. Unanimous approval.

Tim introduced the two speakers from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Becky Monahan and Johnathan Leiman. Becky discussed Maryland's "Integrated Report," the documentation of water quality status of surface waters in Maryland. The IR also documents the decision-making process by which water bodies are assessed and listed. Maryland's 2020 – 2022 IR was approved by the U.S. EPA on February 25, 2022. There are 5 categories of the IR: 1 and 2: waters attaining all or some standards; 3: waters needing additional study; 4: Impaired waters not needing TMDLs; 5: Impaired waters that may need TMDLs (old '303d' list). Becky reviewed the specific Monocacy River Watershed impairments and Jonathan discussed the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), their development, modeling, review, outreach and implementation processes, including the TMDLs in the Monocacy River Watershed.

Gary mentioned the Phase II of the Monocacy Watershed Assessment and possible funding from the County and City of Frederick, plus the assessment of Little Pipe Creek that the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin is now conducting.

Gary described the work underway by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and the National Science Foundation to develop a report card for the Potomac River, with an emphasis on the Monocacy River and its watershed. A July open-house event is scheduled at Hood College for stakeholders and interested parties to submit ideas and perspectives on the Monocacy River. Andy mentioned a list of possible stakeholders could be found in the County's Climate Response and Resilience Report, which lists the people who participated in the creation of the Climate report. Bill stated that the new Frederick Soil Conservation District Manager should be invited to speak to the SMC, as well as the County's Land Preservation Coordinator to talk about the various local, state, and federal preservation programs. Lonnie stated that the SMC should consider having a presence at the 2022 Great Frederick Fair.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm. Submitted by Tim Goodfellow

Chuck motioned to approve the minutes from the April 2022 meeting; Matt seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

The Commission agreed to change the meeting dates from the 3rd Thursday to the 4th Thursday of each month.

The Commission received summaries of the County's Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan and expressed a desire to receive a briefing on this Plan from the County's Division of Emergency Management. Septic systems and their nutrient inputs to ground and surface waters was another topic and issue the Commission wanted to learn more about through a future presentation from the County's Health Department.

Commission members indicated a desire to learn more about the source of pollutants entering our streams and the Monocacy River. Gary spoke about the need for a Phase II of the Monocacy River Water Quality Assessment, which analyzed a 30+ year data set of multiple water quality parameters taken from 4 locations along the Monocacy River. Phase II of the Assessment would include sampling from specific areas to obtain more detailed information about land use and pollution loads from targeted subwatersheds. Gary stated that a new request from the Commission to the County and City of Frederick for funding Phase II should be made.

Gary also described his communication with Staff from the Maryland Department of the Environment regarding the 'Integrated Report' on surface water quality throughout the State. Tim and Gary will arrange a future briefing from MDE Staff about water quality from the State level.

The revision to the 2009 River Report was next discussed. Commission members stated that the revised informational report/brochure should include more information about accessing the River, stormwater management, County land use planning and the overall value of the River –

socially, environmentally, economically, in addition to the items Tim had previously identified. Tim also stated that this effort could take 6 months to complete.

The new SMC logo designed by Matt will be announced on social media. When asked about attribution as the designer, Matt indicated that it was not necessary to add his name as the creator.

Tim stated that a tour of StreamLink Education's 40-acre tree planting along the River at the Waterside Community at MD 26 would be a good future event for the Commission.

After the short discussion, the members left Buckeystown and caravanned to Greenfield Road to walk, observe, and discuss the possibility of the SMC enrolling in the 'Adopt-A-Road' program for this road. After a drive and walk along Greenfield Road, the SMC discussed the fact that many people park along this Road and use the River for fishing, swimming, and gatherings, resulting in high levels of trash. The SMC agreed that the volume of trash and debris left along the River and Greenfield Road poses challenges for the SMC to adequately clean up the site, in fulfillment of the Adopt-A-Road's requirements, and a public perception issue for the SMC if the site is continually strewn with debris. Tim will investigate the placement of trash cans along the road, which would require either the County's Public Works Division or perhaps the Parks Department commitment.

A group photograph was taken adjacent to the River on Greenfield Road for future posting on social media.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Submitted by Tim Goodfellow